TREE-TAPPERS' STRIKE—IRINJALAKKUDA RANGE—PARTICULARS REGARDING.

206. **Mr. A. L. Antony** (*Irinjalakkuda*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) are the Government aware of the existence of a Tree Tappers' Association in the Mukundapuram Taluk; have the tappers of the auctioneers of Irinjalakkuda Range struck work;

(*b*) if so, on what day and for how many days it continued;

(*c*) had the Excise Commissioner interfered in the matter;

(*d*) is that strike ended, and if so, whether the rate of the value of the toddy to be paid to the tappers as fixed then, higher than the former rate?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) It is not definitely known on what date the strike began. It continued for one or two days and ended on the 24th Chingam 1114.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Yes. The rate fixed then was higher than the former rate.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Are we to take it, that the strike means that the tappers refused to supply toddy to the contractors?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): The information is that they struck work and naturally they will not be able to supply.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Were the shops closed?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): I have no information whether the shops were closed.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): The strike was on the 24th of Chingam. Was not this day during the Onam holidays?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): That can be verified from the Calendar.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Is the Government aware that the sale of toddy is greater during Onam days?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): During Onam holidays there may be a little more sale.

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Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): What was the rate before the interference of the Commissioner and what was the rate after that?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): There was some slight increase in the rate. With regard to the exact amount I want notice.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): It is stated here that the rate fixed was higher than the former rate.

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): Yes. There was a slight increase.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): May I know whether giving higher rates to the tappers will not affect the State Revenue?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): Yes.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know whether the difference in rate was due to any difference in the measure.

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): I understand that after the interference of the then Commissioner the amount was fixed at Rs. 1—9—0 for 190 drams. What the prevailing rate was before, I do not know.

മിസ്റ്റർ. കെ. എസ്. പണിക്കർ. സാധാരണ ഗവൺമെൻറ് റേറ് അനുസരിച്ച് ഒരു പറക്ക് എത്ര ഡ്രാമാണ്?

Sir, I want an answer to my question.

Mr. President: He is not able to answer.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Has not the Government standard measures?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): The Government have got standard measures. But the Government do not give any standard measure to these people. It is a matter between the tapper and the shop-keeper. There was some complaint that they were not given adequate prices. Therefore, through the persuasion of the Commissioner some slight increase was made. We do not keep any definite para consisting of so many drams.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്. പണിക്കർ: ഇവിടെ ഫഫഫ-ലെ നിയമസഭയിൽ ഒരു മറുപടി ഗവൺമെൻറിൽനിന്നും തന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതിൽ കണക്കുപ്പ

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കാരം ഫസ്റ്റ് ക്ലാസ് ആണ് ഒരു പാറ എന്നു കാണുന്നു. കൂടാതെ ഫസ്റ്റ് കൂടി ഒരു പാറയാണെന്നും കാണുന്നുണ്ട്. ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുന്നത് ഫസ്റ്റ് ക്ലാസ് ആണ് ഒരു പാറ എന്ന്.

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാമൻ: ഫസ്റ്റ് ക്ലാസ് ഒരു പാറ എന്ന നിലയിലല്ല വില നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: ഒരു പാക്ക് ഇന്ന വില എന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നത് എത്ര അളവുപ്രകാരമാണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാമൻ: ഒരു പാറ എന്നു പറയുന്നത് ഫസ്റ്റ് ഇടങ്ങഴിയാണ്. അതനുസരിച്ചാണ് വില നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നത്.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ എസ്. പണിക്കർ: സാധാരണയായിട്ട് ടാപ്പേഴ്സിനു ഷാപ്പുടമസ്ഥന്മാർ വില കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നത് ക്ലാസ് കണക്കനുസരിച്ചോ പാറക്കണക്കനുസരിച്ചോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. കെ. രാമൻ: അതു ഷാപ്പുടമസ്ഥന്മാരും ചെത്തുകാരും തമ്മിലുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടാണ്. അവർ എങ്ങിനെയാണ് തീരുമാനിക്കുന്നതെന്നുവെച്ചാൽ അതനുസരിച്ച് വില കൊടുക്കും.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): That argument is not convincing since the Government do interfere when the weights and measures are falsified in grocery and other shops. There also it is a matter of contract between the purchaser and the seller.

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): There are certain standard weights and measures which the shop keeper is bound, under the law, to maintain. But here, between the shop-keeper and the tapper there is an arrangement by which so many drams of toddy is given and so much money is given. As a matter of fact my predecessor did not interfere in his capacity as Commissioner. He interfered in his personal capacity.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): May I know whether this association has been registered as a Trade Union?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): We have no information.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): May I know whether the terms arrived at in Chingam by the Commissioner are reasonable terms?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): There is nothing unreasonable.

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Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): May I know whether there is a strike of the tappers even now?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): There is.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon (*Kattur*): May I know what the Government has done in the matter?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): The matter is under correspondence.

Mr. V. K. Krishnankutty (*Ezhuvas-Trichur*): Was not the previous Commissioner satisfied that there was a real grievance before he interfered?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): I am not aware of the fact.

Mr. K. R. Viswambharan (*Ezhuvas-Talappalli*): Has the present Commissioner been informed that the terms arrived at in Chingam last have been violated by the shop-keepers?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): There is no information.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Is there any information that the tappers have ceased to supply toddy?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): I have information that some tappers have ceased to supply toddy to certain shops.

PICKETING BEFORE IRINJALAKKUDA TODDY SHOP.

207. Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(*a*) was there picketing in front of the Irinjalakkuda market shop (toddy) by some volunteers in the month of Chingam soon after the new auctioneers commenced the sales;

(*b*) have the auctioneers reduced the rate of the sale of toddy in their shops from the rate previous to picketing?

Mr. M. K. Raman (*Commissioner of Excise*): (*a*) There was picketing. Who, the actual persons were, that were engaged in picketing is not definitely known.

(*b*) It is reported that selling price of toddy was reduced a bit.

Mr. A. L. Antony (*Irinjalakkuda*): Of all the shops is not the market shop the biggest in the range?

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